

POLITICAL SCIENCE, BA

Political science is the study of governments, political processes, public policies and political behavior by groups or individuals and is an ideal major for students with a passion for current events.

At UWM, students take coursework from four broad areas of political science in order to obtain a well-rounded education in the field: American politics, international relations, comparative politics, and political theory. Along with exploring these substantive areas, students strengthen their research, writing, and critical thinking skills. With this background, students leave UWM ready to enter graduate school or the world of work in government, international organizations, campaigns, business, consulting, nonprofits, and many other industries. This broad major is available entirely online, or students can mix-and-match and take a some online and some traditional classes.

Many students find that a degree in Political Science aligns well with their interest in law and their plans to attend law school after college. We offer a large number of courses in constitutional law and legal practice in society, and students can focus their electives around these as part of the Law Studies option within the Political Science major. Students planning for law school also often participate in our law sports programs such as intercollegiate moot court and intercollegiate mock trial.

Internships are encouraged for all majors, and opportunities can be found locally as well as in Washington DC.

Students from all UW System campuses and other universities are welcome to participate in the International Politics & Foreign Policy Summer Seminar (<https://uwmilwaukee.studioabroad.com/?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgramAngular&id=10107>). Students spend the first week at UW-Milwaukee in an intensive study of international relations and foreign policy. The Seminar then moves to Washington, DC, for two weeks. In Washington, students attend briefings with diplomats representing countries from around the world, along with experts from international organizations, think-tanks, and mass media outlets. Time is also made available for student research.

Requirements

| Code | Title | Credits |
|----------------------|--|------------|
| | General Education Requirements | 30 |
| | L&S Requirements (general degree and major requirements) | 75 |
| | Electives | 15 |
| Total Credits | | 120 |

Credit numbers reflect total possible credits towards degree. Due to the ability to count courses towards more than one requirement, credit amounts will vary. Please work with your academic advisor on your plan of study.

Preparatory Coursework

Based on individual placement results, some students may be required to complete preparatory coursework before enrolling in the courses listed here. This may include English language or composition preparation, developmental math, introductory chemistry, and/or student support courses for students participating in the First Year Bridge program.

General Education Requirements (GER)

UW-Milwaukee has General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/>

#generaleducationtext) that must be met in order to earn a bachelor's or associate degree. They include at minimum 30 credits (10 courses) in six categories that are designed to assure basic student competencies and provide a broad body of knowledge as a context for specialization.

Some degree requirements may fulfill GERs. Please review the requirements and consult with your academic advisor.

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---|--|-----------|
| General Education Categories and Credits | | |
| | Civics and Perspectives (CP) | 6 |
| | Communication and Literacy (CL) | 6 |
| | Humanities and Arts (HA) | 6 |
| | Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (MQR) | 3 |
| | Natural Science and Wellness (NSW/NSWL) | 6 |
| | Social and Behavioral Science (SBS) | 3 |
| Total Credits | | 30 |

Letters and Science Course of Study – Bachelor of Arts Degree

Complete 120 credits including 75 credits in the College of Letters & Science with 36 of the 75 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered 300 or above) courses.

The College requires that students must complete, in residence at UWM, at least 15 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 or above) courses in their major. The College also requires that students complete at least 30 credits overall in residence at UWM. For additional residency and transfer credit limitations, see L&S Undergraduate Policies and Regulations (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/#policiesandregulationstext>).

Students are also required to complete University-wide General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#bachelorsdegreegeneraleducation>) and the specific L&S requirements listed below.

To complete a major, students must satisfy all the requirements of the major as stated in this catalog. Students who declare their majors within five years of entering the UW System as a degree candidate may satisfy the requirements outlined in any catalog issued since the time they entered. Credits used to satisfy the major also may be used to satisfy other degree requirements.

College of Letters & Science Requirements

The degree requirements in the College of Letters and Science build on the University General Education Requirements to provide a broad base of knowledge as well as an array of skills cited by employers as critical to professional success: critical thinking, problem solving, oral and written communication, ability to work well with others, and adaptability to change.

For the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), students must complete the UWM General Education Requirements as well as these L&S requirements: the International requirement, the Breadth requirement, a Natural Science Lab requirement, the Research requirement, and a Language other than English requirement. The International requirement develops student potential for cross-cultural understanding in a globalizing world. The Breadth requirement ensures that students take classes in a wide variety of subjects, across humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. The Research requirement calls for students to build critical

thinking and oral and written communication skills through conducting an independent research project in their major. The Language other than English requirement further develops student proficiency in a language other than English. And, the requirement that students take an L&S Natural Science lab ensures exposure to and practice with the scientific method in action.

I. Total Credits and Upper-Division Courses Requirement

Students must complete 120 credits including 75 credits in the College of Letters & Science with 36 of those 75 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered 300 and above) courses.

II. Language other than English Requirement

Students doing the B.A. must fulfill a language other than English requirement by either successfully completing the fourth semester of university work or equivalent in one language other than English, or by successfully completing the second semester of university work or equivalent in two languages other than English (including all languages other than English and American Sign Language).

Language courses (including American Sign Language) other than English taken in high school may be used to satisfy all or part of this requirement. One year of high school language equates to one semester of college work. Proficiency tests approved by the Languages faculty may be used to satisfy all or part of this requirement.

III. International Requirement

To meet the International Requirement, students must successfully complete some two-course (minimum 6 credits) combination of:

1. Courses with L&S approved international content (see Courses Approved for the L&S International Requirement (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/approved-courses-international-requirement/>) for course options).
2. Any study abroad course(s).

Students who graduate secondary school in a country other than the U.S. are exempt from this requirement.

IV. Breadth Requirement

In addition to completing the University General Education Requirements, L&S students must complete the Breadth requirement to obtain deeper experience across our three substantive divisions.

The L&S Breadth requirement calls for 9 credits each in L&S courses designated L&S Humanities, L&S Natural Sciences, and L&S Social Sciences breadth. One of the L&S Natural Science breadth courses must include a laboratory or fieldwork experience.

Please refer to the list of Courses Approved for the L&S Breadth Requirement (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/breadth-requirement-course-list/>).

V. The Major

The College of Letters and Science requires that students attain at least a 2.0 GPA in all credits in the major attempted at UWM. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 GPA on all major credits attempted, including any transfer work. Individual departments or programs may require higher GPAs for graduation. Some departmental majors require courses from other departments. Students should contact their major department for information on whether those credits will count as part of the major GPA. The College requires that students must complete, in residence at UWM, at least 15 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 or above) courses in their major.

Research Requirement

Within their majors, students must complete a research experience approved by the L&S faculty. A list of courses satisfying the research requirement in each major can be found here (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/approved-courses-research-requirement/>).

VI. The Minor

Students are encouraged to consider completing a minor, but it is not required. To complete a minor, the College of Letters and Science requires that students attain at least a 2.0 GPA in all credits in the minor attempted at UWM. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 GPA on all minor credits attempted, including any transfer work. The minor must contain at least 9 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 and above) courses taken at UWM.

Political Science Major Requirements

Majors must attain a 2.0 GPA in all political science courses, including any transfer work, and a 2.0 GPA in political science courses taken at UWM. Majors are required to complete a minimum of 30 credits in political science, of which at least 15 must be in upper-division courses (numbered 300 or above) taken in residence at UWM. The following courses must be included among those taken for major credit:

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---|--|---------|
| Introductory Requirement | | |
| POL SCI 104 | Introduction to American Government and Politics | 3 |
| Select one of the following: | | 3 |
| POL SCI 101 | Introduction to Political Science | |
| POL SCI 102 | Introduction to International Relations | |
| POL SCI 106 | Politics of the World's Nations | |
| POL SCI 107 | Modern Politics: Ideas and Ideologies | |
| Methods Requirement | | |
| Select one of the following: | | 3 |
| POL SCI 203 | Introduction to Political Science Research | |
| POL SCI 390 | Political Data Analysis | |
| POL SCI 392 | Survey Research | |
| Requirements: Areas of Political Science | | |
| Select at least one course beyond the 100 level in each of the following four areas of political science: | | 12 |
| <i>American Politics</i> | | |
| POL SCI 105 | State Politics | |
| POL SCI 150 | Multicultural America: Minority Voting Rights and Representation | |
| POL SCI 201 | Introduction to Public Service | |
| POL SCI 210 | American Public Policy | |
| POL SCI 213 | Urban Government and Politics | |
| POL SCI 215 | Ethnicity, Religion and Race in American Politics | |
| POL SCI 216 | Environmental Politics | |
| POL SCI 243 | Public Administration | |
| POL SCI 250 | Law and Society | |
| POL SCI 387 | Topics in American Politics: | |
| POL SCI 398 | Cyberpolitics ¹ | |
| POL SCI 408 | The American Presidency | |
| POL SCI 410 | Law Through Popular Culture | |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| POL SCI 411 | Constitutional Law: Government Powers and Federalism |
| POL SCI 412 | Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties |
| POL SCI 415 | The Politics of Race, Ethnicity and Immigration |
| POL SCI 416 | Judicial Politics |
| POL SCI 417 | The Supreme Court |
| POL SCI 419 | Constitutional Interpretation |
| POL SCI 421 | Party Politics in America |
| POL SCI 425 | Women in Politics |
| POL SCI 426 | Congressional Politics |
| POL SCI 450 | Urban Political Problems |
| POL SCI 452 | Administrative Law |
| POL SCI 464 | Sex, Gender, and the Law |
| POL SCI 467 | Elections and Voting Behavior |
| POL SCI 471 | Problems in Law Studies: |
| POL SCI 473 | Public Opinion |
| POL SCI 475 | Political Psychology |
| <i>Comparative Politics</i> | |
| POL SCI 106 | Politics of the World's Nations |
| POL SCI 310 | Russian and Post-Soviet Politics |
| POL SCI 312 | The Politics of Authoritarian Regimes |
| POL SCI 314 | Chinese Politics and Foreign Policy ² |
| POL SCI 321 | Politics of Revolution in Developing Nations |
| POL SCI 325 | Latin American Politics |
| POL SCI 328 | The Arab-Israeli Conflict |
| POL SCI 329 | African Politics |
| POL SCI 333 | Seminar in Comparative Politics: |
| POL SCI 335 | Comparative Political Systems |
| POL SCI 345 | Korean Politics and Foreign Policy ² |
| POL SCI 371 | Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict |
| POL SCI 374 | Health, Wealth, and Democracy |
| POL SCI 377 | Elections in the Modern World |
| <i>International Politics</i> | |
| POL SCI 102 | Introduction to International Relations |
| POL SCI 314 | Chinese Politics and Foreign Policy ² |
| POL SCI 316 | International Law |
| POL SCI 330 | The Politics of International Economic Relations |
| POL SCI 337 | International Organization and the United Nations |
| POL SCI 338 | Seminar in International Relations: |
| POL SCI 340 | Politics of Nuclear Weapons |
| POL SCI 343 | Asian International Relations |
| POL SCI 345 | Korean Politics and Foreign Policy ² |
| POL SCI 359 | Problems of American Foreign Policy |
| POL SCI 365 | Theories and Methods in International Politics |
| POL SCI 370 | International Conflict |
| POL SCI 379 | Morality, Conflict and War |

| | |
|--|--|
| POL SCI 391 | Current Crises and Events in International Relations |
| POL SCI 423 | Conduct of American Foreign Affairs |
| <i>Political Theory</i> | |
| POL SCI 107 | Modern Politics: Ideas and Ideologies |
| POL SCI 110 | Sex and Power |
| POL SCI 255 | The Body Politic: Topics in Health and Politics |
| POL SCI 281 | Classics of Political Theory |
| POL SCI 361 | History of International Political Thought |
| POL SCI 381 | The Development of Western Political Thought |
| POL SCI 382 | Modern Political Thought |
| POL SCI 383 | Environmental Political Theory |
| POL SCI 384 | The Philosophy of Law |
| POL SCI 385 | American Political Thought |
| POL SCI 386 | Contemporary Political Theory |
| POL SCI 389 | Politics and Philosophy: |
| Research Experience 3 | |
| Select one from the list below. ³ | |
| POL SCI 312 | The Politics of Authoritarian Regimes |
| POL SCI 314 | Chinese Politics and Foreign Policy |
| POL SCI 325 | Latin American Politics |
| POL SCI 338 | Seminar in International Relations: |
| POL SCI 345 | Korean Politics and Foreign Policy |
| POL SCI 361 | History of International Political Thought |
| POL SCI 370 | International Conflict |
| POL SCI 408 | The American Presidency |
| POL SCI 415 | The Politics of Race, Ethnicity and Immigration |
| POL SCI 416 | Judicial Politics |
| POL SCI 417 | The Supreme Court |
| POL SCI 425 | Women in Politics |
| POL SCI 426 | Congressional Politics |
| POL SCI 464 | Sex, Gender, and the Law |
| POL SCI 467 | Elections and Voting Behavior |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Electives | |
| Select 6 credits from any of the above. | 6 |
| Total Credits | 30 |

¹ Depending on instructor, may satisfy American Politics or International Relations area requirement, but not both.

² May be used to satisfy Comparative Politics or International Politics but not both.

³ Satisfies the L&S requirement for a research experience in the major; should be taken in the last year of study.

Course of Study: Law Studies Option

Students may emphasize the study of law within the major by completing, in conjunction with or in addition to all of the requirements outlined above, the courses listed below as part of the 30 credits required

for the major. Some of the courses below also satisfy the requirement of 3 credits above the 100 level in each area of Political Science.

Law Studies Requirements

| Code | Title | Credits |
|------------------------------|---|-----------|
| Required | | |
| POL SCI 250 | Law and Society ⁴ | 3 |
| POL SCI 411 | Constitutional Law: Government Powers and Federalism ⁴ | 3 |
| POL SCI 412 | Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties ⁴ | 3 |
| Select two of the following: | | 6 |
| POL SCI 316 | International Law ⁵ | |
| POL SCI/PHILOS 384 | The Philosophy of Law ⁶ | |
| POL SCI 410 | Law Through Popular Culture ⁴ | |
| POL SCI 416 | Judicial Politics ⁴ | |
| POL SCI 417 | The Supreme Court ⁴ | |
| POL SCI 419 | Constitutional Interpretation ⁴ | |
| POL SCI 452 | Administrative Law ⁴ | |
| POL SCI 464 | Sex, Gender, and the Law ⁴ | |
| POL SCI 471 | Problems in Law Studies: ⁴ | |
| Total Credits | | 15 |

⁴ Satisfies the American politics requirement.

⁵ Satisfies the international politics requirement.

⁶ Satisfies the political theory requirement.

Plan of Study

| Year 1 | | Credits |
|--|---|--------------|
| Fall | | |
| ENGLISH 102 | College Writing and Research (GER CL) | 3 |
| GER MQR | | 3 |
| POL SCI 104 or POL SCI 101 | Introduction to American Government and Politics (GER CP) or Introduction to Political Science | 3 |
| 1st semester Language other than English | | 3-5 |
| GER HA | | 3 |
| Credits | | 15-17 |
| Spring | | |
| GER CL | | 3 |
| GER HA | | 3 |
| 2nd semester Language other than English | | 3-5 |
| GER NSW (recommend POL SCI 110 or POL SCI 255) | | 3 |
| POL SCI 203 | Introduction to Political Science Research | 3 |
| Credits | | 15-17 |
| Year 2 | | |
| Fall | | |
| GER CP (recommend POL SCI 106 or POL SCI 107) | | 3 |
| GER SBS (recommend POL SCI 102) | | 3 |
| GER NSW-Lab | | 3-5 |
| 3rd semester Language other than English (could satisfy Int'l Req) | | 3-5 |
| L&S Humanities | | 3 |
| Credits | | 15-19 |
| Spring | | |
| GER CP (recommend POL SCI 106 or POL SCI 107) | | 3 |
| 4th semester Language other than English (could satisfy Int'l Req) | | 3-5 |
| L&S Humanities | | 3 |
| L&S Natural Science - Lab | | 3-5 |

| Pol Sci Elective ¹ | | Credits |
|--|--|----------------|
| | | 3 |
| Year 3 | | 15-19 |
| Fall | | |
| Pol Sci upper-level, American Politics | | 3 |
| Pol Sci upper-level, Comparative Politics | | 3 |
| L&S Natural Science | | 3 |
| L&S upper-level | | 3 |
| Elective | | 3 |
| Credits | | 15 |
| Spring | | |
| Pol Sci upper-level, International Politics | | 3 |
| Pol Sci upper-level, Political Theory | | 3 |
| L&S upper-level | | 3 |
| L&S Elective | | 3 |
| Elective | | 3 |
| Credits | | 15 |
| Year 4 | | |
| Fall | | |
| Pol Sci upper-level | | 3 |
| Pol Sci upper-level | | 3 |
| L&S upper-level | | 3 |
| L&S Elective | | 3 |
| Elective | | 3 |
| Credits | | 15 |
| Spring | | |
| Pol Sci upper-level for Research Requirement | | 3 |
| Pol Sci upper-level | | 3 |
| L&S upper-level | | 3 |
| Elective | | 3 |
| Elective | | 3 |
| Credits | | 15 |
| Total Credits | | 120-132 |

¹ Most Pol Sci courses satisfy both International Requirement and L&S Social Science Breadth Requirement.

Political Science BA Learning Outcomes

Students graduating with a BA in Political Science will be able to:

- Evaluate arguments, interpret complex documents, analyze political phenomena, theories, and policies using relevant concepts, methods, and evidence. (Critical Analysis)
- Develop research skills, including the ability to formulate research questions, gather and evaluate information from diverse sources, use technology responsibly and judiciously and communicate their findings effectively. (Research Skills)
- Communicate complex political ideas and arguments clearly and persuasively, both in writing and orally, to diverse audiences. (Effective Communication)
- Engage in the major debates that have shaped the study of comparative politics, international relations, American politics and political theory. (Fluency in the language of Political Science)

Letters & Science Advising

During your time at UWM, you may have multiple members of your success team, including advisors, peer mentors and success coaches. Letters & Science students typically work with at least two different types of advisors as they pursue their degrees: professional college advisors

and faculty advisors. L&S college advisors advise across your entire degree program while departmental faculty advisors focus on the major.

College advisors are located in Holton Hall (or virtually for online students) and serve as your primary advisor. They are your point person for your questions about navigating college and completing your degree. College advisors will:

- Assist you in defining your academic and life goals.
- Help you create an educational plan that is consistent with those goals.
- Assist you in understanding curriculum, major and degree requirements for graduation, as well as university policies and procedures.
- Provide you with information about campus and community resources and refer you to those resources as appropriate.
- Monitor your progress toward graduation and completion of requirements.

Faculty advisors mentor students in the major and assist them in maximizing their development in the program. You will begin working with a faculty advisor when you declare your major. Faculty advisors are an important partner and will:

- Help you understand major requirements and course offerings in the department.
- Explain opportunities for internships and undergraduate research and guide you in obtaining those experiences.
- Serve as an excellent resource as you consider potential graduate programs and career paths in your field.

Students are encouraged to meet with both their college advisor and faculty advisor at least once each semester. Appointments are available in-person, by phone or by video.

Currently enrolled students should use the Navigate360 website (<https://uwm.navigate.eab.com/>) to make an appointment with your assigned advisor or call (414) 229-4654 if you do not currently have an assigned Letters & Science advisor. Prospective students who haven't enrolled in classes yet should call (414) 229-7711 or email let-sci@uwm.edu.

Honors and High Honors in the Major

Departmental honors are awarded upon graduation to students who achieve a 3.500 GPA overall in all UWM courses attempted, in their political science major courses, and in upper-division political science courses. Students meeting these GPA requirements will be slated automatically for graduating with honors in the major.

Students who meet the GPA requirement and wish to be considered for departmental high honors should request that the faculty member supervising their substantial research paper nominate them for high honors. The supervising faculty member will decide if the student should be recommended to the high honors committee, which is composed of three political science faculty members. The committee will determine if the quality of the nominee's paper is sufficient to earn the high honors designation and, if so, will bestow the high honors accordingly. Note that a student interested in receiving high honors must contact a Political Science faculty member to be considered; high honors are not bestowed automatically.

Questions about honors designations can be directed to any of the Political Science faculty advisors.

College of Letters and Science Dean's Honor List

GPA of 3.750 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

Honors College Degree and Honors College Degree with Distinction

Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/honors-college/>) section of this site.

Commencement Honors

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester, will receive all-university commencement honors and be awarded the traditional gold cord at the December or May Honors Convocation. Please note that for honors calculation, the GPA is **not** rounded and is truncated at the third decimal (e.g., 3.499).

Final Honors

Earned on a minimum of 60 graded UWM credits: Cum Laude - 3.500 or above; Magna Cum Laude - 3.650 or above; Summa Cum Laude - 3.800 or above.